

157 than any other people whatever. Foppery in all its con-
175 temptible gradations, of dress, deportment and mental noth-
ingness and insipidity is the prevailing characteristic of the
young men. An Indian Dandy would, to be sure, be an
amusing unique in the circles of fashion; but if you could
transport a full dressed Comanche buck into a coterie of
our most exquisite "Delectables," my word for it, he would
eclipse them in all the essential properties of that profes-
sion. The squaws from the infancy are too completely
servile to bestow either time or solicitude on the ornaments
175 of person. The men are large, and well proportioned and
142 generally, good looking—the women, as much the reverse
as human nature will bear. As a nation, they think them-
175 selves the most numerous and powerful on earth—and will
186 listen with incredulous wonderment to a recital of facts that
controul this flattering opinion.—So true is it that ignorance
and vanity are inseparably allied.

175 The Comanchees do not cultivate the earth, but subsist
224 for the most part on the erratic Buffaloes which descend
136 into their district in the fall, in pursuit of a verdant herbage,
and return in the spring, (such of them as survive the dep-
redations of their numerous biped enemies) to their north-
ern range. It has been remarked that the number of Buf-
faloes that annually reach the regions inhabited by the Co-
manchees, has sensibly diminished within a few years. In
000 the event of a serious failure of that munificent provision
of nature, these and other tribes of similar habits, will be
compelled to resort to agriculture, or to recede northwardly
in pursuit of their ancient prey. The former of these alter-
natives would be difficult of adoption, on account of their
native inertness and aversion to labor; and the latter would
probably be rendered impracticable by the jealousy of other
tribes, who already occupy the northern wilds.

175 These wandering savages have made but small ad-
vances in the domestic arts. Their lodges or tents, are
342 formed of Buffaloe hides dressed to a suitable consistency,
[237] and erected on poles, in the shape of an elongated cone,
having an aperture at the top to emit the smoke, which
purpose it answers but very imperfectly. They are exces-

THE LOST ONES

29

set of tepee poles, twenty-two in number, left from the old days. 342
Now they were covered with canvas.

The government had built a small box house, generally fourteen 657
by twenty-eight feet, at most family camps, but it could hardly accom- 593
modate the multiple-wife family, still in vogue. Mostly it was the 343
camp's storage house, an out-of-the-weather place for saddles, harness,
horse feed and medicine, and the women's sewing machine.

I almost never knew one of the Carlisle Comanches, man or boy, to 464
take a job. There were riding jobs on the ranches, and many mer- 461
chants would have been glad to hire a Comanche clerk. Old Indians
with horse herds were forced to hire white broncobusters to break 492
their horses. I asked an Indian father once, in my ignorance, why he 464
was paying to have his horses ridden, and added the naïve question,
"Don't your boys like to break horses to ride?" In our Scottish house-
hold I had never heard the words tact and diplomacy.

The old fellow gave a snort of disgust and replied, partly in sign
language and partly in words, "They more like riding sitting-down-
walking," that is to say, riding a bicycle.

The question had been crude on my part, and I should have been 000
pulled up short for my brashness. But I was all excited, thinking what
a wonderful lot of fun it would be to gentle and ride those ponies. I
had actually helped do it on the farm with wild horses from Oregon.
I knew there was a better way to break a horse to ride than to throw
a saddle on a wild horse, climb on, and spur him until he was ex-
hausted from bucking.

Just a little time spent gentling a horse pays big dividends. Let
him wear a saddle while he is tied snugly to a post or in a stall. Then,
when you first ride him do not use your spurs. We first taught a horse
to lead while wearing a saddle. Then, the first few times we rode him
we had someone on a strong, gentle horse keep the wild horse's head
snubbed close to the other's saddle horn and lead him.

Indian boys had nothing but time. Tribal custom had been to re- 462
quire no menial tasks from boys as they grew up: "Pretty soon be 857
warrior, may-be-so die." But in the old days, the boy was expected to 231
work with the horses, herd them, learn to train them, and become an
expert horseman. From my observations, the Carlisle boys were inter- 492
ested in horses only when they wanted to ride somewhere. Had they
seen fit to gentle and break their fathers' horses, they would have had
much more salable animals.